

28.

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

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DECLARATION 4

On the need for avoiding intemperate language
in discussions on zoological nomenclature

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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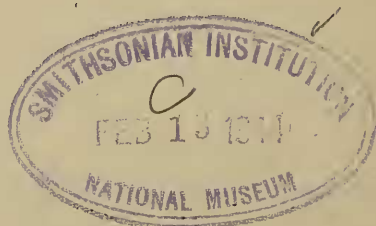
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DECLARATION 4.

ON THE NEED FOR AVOIDING INTEMPERATE LANGUAGE IN DISCUSSIONS ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE.

DECLARATION.—In the opinion of the Commission the tendency to enter into public polemics over matters which educated and refined professional gentlemen might so easily settle in friendly and diplomatic correspondence is distinctly unfavourable to a settlement of the nomenclatorial cases for which a solution is sought. It may be assumed that the vast majority of zoologists agree with the Commission in desiring results rather than polemics, and the Commission ventures to suggest that results may be obtained more easily by the utmost consideration for the usual rules of courtesy when discussing the views of others.

The dangers attending the use of sarcasm and intemperate language in discussions on zoological nomenclature were specially considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at their Session held at Monaco in March 1913 during the Ninth International Congress of Zoology. The Commission considered that this question was sufficiently pressing to require special treatment in their report to the Congress. In framing that report the Commission accordingly devoted paragraphs (68) and (69) to this subject.

2. Paragraph (68) of that report reads as follows :—

(68) *Intemperate Language.*—Whether or not it be an actual fact, appearances to that effect exist that if one author changes or corrects the names used by another writer, the latter seems inclined to take the change as a personal offense. The explanation of this fact (or appearance, as the case may be) is not entirely clear. If one person corrects the grammar of another, this action seems to be interpreted as a criticism upon the good breeding or education of the latter person. Nomenclature has been called "the grammar of science" and possibly there is some inborn feeling that changes in nomenclature involve a reflection upon one's education, culture and breeding. Too frequently there follows a discussion in which one or the other author so far departs from the paths of diplomatic discussion, that he seems to give more or less foundation to the view that there is something in his culture subject to criticism. It is with distinct regret that the Commission notices the tendency to sarcasm and intemperate language so noticeable in discussions which should be not only of the most friendly nature, especially since a thorough mutual understanding is so valuable to an agreement, but which are complicated and rendered more difficult of results by every little departure from those methods adopted by professional gentlemen.

Here follows (in paragraph (69)) the passage which forms the text of the present *Declaration*.

3. The Commission's report was submitted to the Section on Nomenclature by whom the paragraphs relating to the present *Declaration* were unanimously approved. The report was subsequently submitted to the Ninth International Congress of Zoology by whom it was considered at the Concilium Plenum held at Monaco on the afternoon of 30th March 1913. It had previously been decided that discussion of particular portions of the report should be confined to the meeting of the Section on Nomenclature. Accordingly when the report was brought before the Concilium Plenum, the Congress was asked to vote on it *en bloc*. The Congress thereupon adopted and approved the whole of the report against only four dissenting votes. In the circumstances described, these dissenting votes were necessarily directed against the whole report, but in view of the fact that the paragraphs in that report containing the present *Declaration* were unanimously adopted in the Section on Nomenclature, it may be concluded that the dissenting votes were intended to refer not to the present subject but to those portions of the Commission's report on which unanimity had not been secured in the Section.

4. The present *Declaration* was concurred in by the nine (9) Commissioners¹ present at the Monaco Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Allen; Blanchard; Dautzenberg; Hartert; Hoyle; Jentink; Monticelli; Stejneger; and Stiles.

5. The following six (6) Commissioners were not present at the Monaco Session of the International Commission and did not therefore vote on the present *Declaration* :—

Apstein; Dollo; Jordan (D. S.); Ludwig; Mitchell; and Schulze.

¹ There were two Alternates (Dr. K. Jordan and Hon. Walter (later Lord) Rothschild) at the Monaco Session of the International Commission, but on that occasion Alternates attended only in an advisory capacity and were not accorded full voting rights.

CERTIFICATE :

I, FRANCIS HEMMING, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, hereby CERTIFY that the present *Declaration* has been compiled from the records of the Proceedings of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at their Session held at Monaco in March 1913 during the Ninth International Congress of Zoology.

FRANCIS HEMMING

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

Secretariat of the Commission,
at the British Museum (Natural History),
Cromwell Road, LONDON, S.W.7.

12th June 1943.

THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE COMMISSION.

(obtainable at the Publications Office of the Commission at 41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.)

Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature

This journal has been established by the International Commission as their Official Organ in order to provide a medium for the publication of :—

- (a) proposals on zoological nomenclature submitted to the Commission for deliberation and decision ;
- (b) comments received from, and correspondence by the Secretary with, zoologists on proposals published in the *Bulletin* under (a) above : and
- (c) papers on nomenclatorial implications of developments in taxonomic theory and practice.

Three Parts have so far been published : Part 1 (introductory, including an account of the functions and powers of the Commission and a summary of the work so far achieved); Part 2 (relating to the financial position of the Commission); Part 3 (containing the official records of the decisions taken by the Commission at their meeting at Lisbon in 1935).

Opinions and Declarations Rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

Volume 1 will contain *Declarations* 1-9 (which have never previously been published) and *Opinions* 1-133 (the original issue of which is now out of print). Parts 1-5 (containing *Declarations* 1-5) have now been published.

Volume 2 commences with *Declaration* 10 and *Opinion* 134. Parts 1-15 (containing *Opinions* 134-148) have so far been published. The titles of these *Opinions* are given on the wrappers to Parts 1 and 2 of the *Bulletin*. Other Parts will be published shortly.

AN URGENT APPEAL FOR A FUND OF £1800 TO ENABLE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO CONTINUE ITS WORK

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature urgently appeal for grants to the above Fund to Museums, Research Institutes and other Institutions concerned with any branch of zoology ; to Learned Societies and Associations concerned with any aspect of zoology ; to Institutions and Learned Societies in the fields of Agriculture, Horticulture, Medicine and Veterinary Science, all of whom have a direct interest in that portion of the work of the Commission which is concerned with the stabilisation of Zoological Nomenclature ; to University and other Departments engaged in the teaching of zoology as being directly interested to secure stability in the scientific nomenclature used in biological text-books ; and to every individual zoologist who may be in a position to contribute to the funds of the Commission. Full particulars of the purposes for which the above Fund is required are given in Part 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

Contributions of any amount, however small, will be most gratefully received. They should be addressed to the Commission at their Publications Office, 41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7. Bankers' drafts, cheques, and Postal Orders, should be made payable to the "International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature" and crossed "Account payee. Coutts & Co."

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